A typology of the fragmentation of local institutions in European urban areas

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Metropolitan governance

The constantly renewed debate

No coordination
(In)formal coordination
Metropolitan government
Intermunicipal authorities
Supramunicipal authorities
The major impact of the (spatiality of) local units

Despite European integration, a strong heterogeneity of local contexts

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**Coventry, UK**
719,617 inhab.

**Liège, BE**
746,460 inhab.

**Rennes, FR**
710,294 inhab.
## Objective and methodology

**A typology of the local institutional fragmentation to provide contextual informations on systems of urban governance in Europe**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urban areas</th>
<th>257 European urban areas of more than 300,000 inhabitants in the European union and partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Based on the the smaller level of government identified by OECD and national authorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spatial data</td>
<td>Based on Eurostat (functional urban areas, 2017) and EuroGeographics (EuroBoundaryMap, 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Typology based on the distribution of the population and the area within functional urban areas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Breuer, Halleux, 2016. Spatiality of local government in European intermediate urban regions. A methodological approach, *Quaestiones Geographicae*, 34 (2) [http://hdl.handle.net/2268/193783](http://hdl.handle.net/2268/193783)
**Fragmentation indicators**

How to quantify the fragmentation of local institutions within urban areas?

**Absolute indicators**
- Often used by European publications and reports

| Direct information on coordination issues |
| Indirect information on the capacity of local units of government |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fragmentation indicator</td>
<td>Fragmentation indicator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>inhabitants</td>
<td>area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>——— local units = inh./local unit</td>
<td>——— local units = km²/local unit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Fragmentation indicators

How to quantify the fragmentation of local institutions within urban areas?

#### Relative indicators

On the distribution of the population (and the area) within the area

Indirect information on the (relative) distribution of power within the urban areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General fragmentation indicator</th>
<th>Primacy population indicator</th>
<th>Gini population indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100% local units = %</td>
<td>max. pop./area = km² / local unit</td>
<td>surface 1 = [0 - 1]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>total pop./area = %</td>
<td>surface 2 = [0 - 1]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local fragmentation of institutions in European urban areas

General fragmentation index

Author: Breuer, 2018
University of Liège

Sources: Own calculations based on Eurostat, FUA 2015-2018
Eurogeographics, EBM 2017
From the database to the typology

3 typologies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population indicator</th>
<th>Typology 1 absolute indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area indicator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fragmentation indicator</th>
<th>Typology 2 relative indicators</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primacy indicator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gini indicator</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Typology 3 general typology
Local fragmentation of institutions in European urban areas
- Typology on absolute indicators (6 groups)

Author: Breuer, 2018
University of Liège

Sources: Own calculations based on Eurostat, FUA 2015-2018
Eurogeographics, EBM 2017
Local fragmentation of institutions in European urban areas

General typology (7 groups)

version 5.01

Author: Breuer, 2018
University of Liège

Sources: Own calculations based on Eurostat, FUA 2015-2018
Eurogeographics, EBM 2017
Conclusions

A typology of the local institutional fragmentation to provide contextual informations on systems of urban governance in Europe

Main results

The typologies show (1) high variation in fragmentation profile within Europe and their spatialization, (2) common features for urban areas of the 7 groups

The typologies are adaptative and useful for the selection and the contextualisation of comparative studies of urban (metropolitan) governance

Research perspectives

Further quantitative analysis on the links between fragmentation indicators and individual characteristics of metropolitan governance

Complementary studies on the correlations between the fragmentation indicators and the territorial characteristics of urban areas
Any suggestions?
Any proposals?

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